

NOBLE
HISTORY
HOPEWELL
CHURCH

D12

7/2009

ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY
603 S. Jackson St.
Auburn, IN 46706

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

September 1901

2001



Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Sesquicentennial
2008

IN HONOR

OF

REV. KENNARD ROBINSON

We dedicate this book

**HIS LOVE AND MINISTRY
HAS TOUCHED THIS
CHURCH FAMILY
SINCE 1983**

**OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR
THE BLESSING YOU
HAVE BEEN TO THIS
CONGREGATION**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING
OF THE
HOPEWELL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AVILLA, IN
OCTOBER 19, 2008

Section I

A HISTORY OF THE HOPEWELL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH From 1858 - 1958

In the year 1835, the first white settlers came to make their home in Swan Township. From that year on, a steady stream of people came from the eastern states to begin a new life in Indiana. Most of our early citizens located first in the eastern part of the township, near what is now Highway 3, but what was then the Mongoquinong Trail, and later was called the Plank Road. This was a direct route used by the Indians on their trips between the trading post in Fort Wayne and points in northern Indiana and lower Michigan. This was also the road used by the incoming settlers from Fort Wayne to points north, since most of the travelers came via way of Fort Wayne, arriving there by a road coming in from Ohio or by way of the river.

Soon after the settlers were located, a Methodist Circuit Rider, as he was called, began to visit the locality and hold services. As was natural, on account of the lack of pastors of their own denominations, most of the settlers attended the services conducted by Rev. Bail whenever he arrived in the neighborhood. However, by the year 1858, several families who were members of Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, New York and eastern Ohio, decided that there were enough followers of the Presbyterian doctrine in the community to organize their own church. This was done, and Presbyterianism began its growth in Swan Township.

Hiram King, who came to Indiana in 1836, was instrumental in organizing the congregation. A Swan Township history says of Mr. King, "He was a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church". Some of the members of the church organized in 1858 were the King's, Preston's, Drake's, Haines', Henry's, and Wheeler's. These never became members of the church at Hopewell. Others who attended this church when it was organized, and who later affiliated with Hopewell were the Isaac McCoy's, Anderson's, Smith Cooley's, and Archie Miller's. There were also other families that we are not familiar with.

Rev. Alex Forbes was the first pastor of the congregation. Early in the 1860's the question of a meeting house began to be discussed. The problem of the location of the church to be erected became a point of disagreement.

Late in the 1850's and early 1860's, there began coming to Green Township, the McCoy families and the families of Samuel and Silas Moore. These new settlers were members of the Pennsylvania Church in Pennsylvania, so naturally they became part of the church here. Since they had located several miles west of the meeting place then being used, it was felt that a more centrally located site for the church would be more convenient. A compromise could not be reached, resulting in the original congregation being divided, and two Presbyterian churches were built in Swan Township in the summer of 1863. One was the main part of our present church. The other was erected a short distance west of Highway 3 on the farm originally owned by the Teegardin's, and was known as the King Church.

When the argument over the location of the church was being carried on, Jonas Strouse and his wife, Anna deeded to the trustees of the Hopewell Congregation, the land where

the church, the church hall and the cemetery are located. Dr. Wm. Veazey, a grandson of Jonas Strouse, told that he had heard his family tell that his grandfather said he would give the land, a hundred dollars in cash, and board the carpenters. Jonas Strouse lived to be a few days over a hundred years old, and was the ancestor of many who have been, or are now, members of the church. Grandfather Strouse did not unite with the church himself until he was past ninety years old.

In the year 15863 a church was erected on the present site. The carpenter in charge of the erection of the church edifice was Isaac Shambaugh. The original cost of the building was \$900.00.

The church was located a little south of the present location. There were two doors on the south side of the building, and the pulpit was on the north side.

The new church had twenty-three charter members. Among them were Mr. & Mrs. Isaac McCoy, Mr. & Mrs. Robert McCartney, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Whetzel, Mr. & Mrs. Armour Anderson and Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Leitch.

The cemetery was laid out the same year, and the first burial was made while the men were working on the church. This was a daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Leitch.

There is no record of the pastor who was in charge during the first couple of years after the church was erected. But in 1865, Rev. Joseph P. Moore moved to our locality from Pennsylvania. Rev. Moore was a well educated man, having been principal of the Collegiate Institute in Pittsburgh for more than ten years. He was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church in 1860. Rev. Moore became pastor of the Hopewell Church soon after arriving in Swan Township, and with the exception of a few years, served for

twenty-seven years. Rev. Moore passed to his reward in December, 1892, his funeral being held on Christmas Day, and he was buried in the Hopewell Cemetery.

About the time Rev. Moore and his family came to Indiana, other families were coming to this locality who were to become members of the Hopewell Church. Some of these were the Smith Cooley's, Archie Miller's, and William McCoy's.

Sometime later trouble arose in the church. A quarrel started among some of the members, causing dissention and several families returned to the King Church. For a time the church was closed. A Rev. Martin preached at Hopewell for some time. Charles Whetzel, a son of two of the charter members, married a daughter of Rev. Martin, and he later became a minister of the Gospel. He held pastorates in Iowa, and passed away a number of years ago.

About 1885, Rev. Moore went to Kansas, where he had a son living, and he remained there about two years. While he was gone, a Rev. Lloyd of Fort Wayne had charge of the work at Hopewell. He came every two weeks, stayed in the neighborhood over the weekend, and preached twice on Sunday.

The King Church disbanded as a congregation after about twenty years. About 1888, the building was sold to Ira King, who moved it to his farm on the east side of Highway 3, and converted it into a barn.

When Rev. Moore returned, he again took charge at Hopewell. Soon after, the church was remodeled. The building was moved a little north of where it first stood and it was placed on a stone wall foundation. The doors on the south were closed, and an entrance and steeple erected in the middle of the west end. The pulpit was build across the east,

and seats were re-arranged to suit the interior. It was heated by two wood stoves and lighted by oil lamps.

An organ was purchased about this time. Mrs. Howard Moore, an accomplished musician, was organist for many years.

Rev. Moore is often mentioned by the older members of the church, many of whom received religious instruction from this good Christian man. They tell how he preached on Sunday and was buried the next Sunday. A number of descendants of Rev. Moore are still members of the congregation.

Rev. Charles West, of Howe, was called in 1893 to take charge of the ministerial duties of the church. Rev. West was a bachelor most of the time he was pastor at Hopewell. He would come every other week, arriving on Saturday, remain over Sunday, and preach both morning and evening. The church records, kept by Howard Moore, Clerk of Session, tell of a steady growth in membership. Some of the present older members united with the church during this time. Rev. West was married in 1898, and left Hopewell early in 1900. A Christian Endeavor was organized during the pastorate of Rev. West.

Rev. John B Hawkins of Butler was the next pastor, coming in 1900. He also preached at the two services a day on alternate Sundays. There is a record of a number of additions to the church roll. Rev. Hawkins remained as regular pastor until 1903, coming back in 1904, to hold Communion.

Following Rev. Hawkins's retirement, the church was inactive for several years. The church record dated September 18, 1908, says, "no regular worship services held since 1904". Sunday School would be held during the summer months, only to be discontinued

during cold weather. Many of the older members had died, and the younger members drifted away from lack of interest. It was a sad condition. I remember how as a young woman, we used to wish for church services. The church was opened only for funerals.

During the summer of 1906 and 1907, Rev. Price, who was pastor of the Albion Presbyterian Church, came to Hopewell every two weeks and held services on Sunday afternoon.

The next year a student from McCormick Theological Seminary, whose name was Campbell, came to Hopewell and held services on alternate Sundays from June 14th to August 23rd. In 1909, services were held from May 1st to September 5th. These were conducted by Herman Kunkle, also a student at McCormick. A number of our present members united with the church as the result of the work of Mr. Kunkle.

So goes the history of the first fifty years of our church, but with the year 1910, a new life began, and for 48 years and more there have been few Sundays without a worship service.

In March 1910, Rev. Judson Arrick was moderator of Fort Wayne Presbytery, and also pastor of the Kendallville church. He brought Rev. Frank Heydenburk to Hopewell for a trial sermon. A series of meetings were held for two weeks, followed by Communion service and reception of members into the church. A congregational meeting was called, church officers were elected, and the affairs of the church were put on a business-like basis. The re-awakening of Hopewell Church really began at this time. A call was extended to Rev. Heydenburk, which was accepted, and he became our pastor.

Rev. Heydenburk brought with him his wife, Sarah, and three sons, David, Clement and Albert. Part of the time they lived in the house now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ray

Dancer, and later in a little house near the church, owned by the Whetzel's and later destroyed by fire.

The first year Rev. Heydenburk served us, he also had a church at Packerton, Indiana, and attended each church on alternate Sundays. The last year he had only Hopewell, and consequently, we had services twice each Sunday. Rev. Heydenburk was a very serious, studious man, not given to frivolity, but greatly interested in his work, and the spread of the Gospel. Revival meetings were held during his ministry and a goodly number came into the church.

No longer was Sunday School being discontinued during cold weather. A great deal of credit must be given to the men who have directed the work of the Sunday School. Howard Moore served in the time when it was hard to keep going. Others serving later were Edwin Whan, Walter Crothers, Grover Renkenberger, Melvin Yarian, Robert Cooley, Forrest DeHoff, and Guy Zolman, our present Sunday School superintendent.

It was due to the efforts of Mrs. Heydenburk, that in the autumn of 1912, a Women's Missionary Society was organized, and became an active part of the Fort Wayne Presbyterian Society. It has been in a flourishing condition most of the 46 years of its existence. A number of the members have acted as Presbyterian officers at different times.

While Rev. Heydenburk was pastor, a Miss Kelley and Miss Henderson asked permission to hold services in the church. The church officers granted permission, and meetings were carried on for two weeks. No lasting result of their work was seen, but due to their efforts, one family withdrew their membership from the church.

In 1913, Rev. Heydenburk received a call from a church at West Lebanon, Indiana, which he accepted. He preached his farewell sermon on April 6, 1913, and moved the next week, thus closing a three year successful pastorate, raising the membership from 37 when he came to 87 when he left.

Their elder son, David, is a professor in the Music Department of the Fort Wayne Bible College. He informs us that Mrs. Heydenburk died in 1947, and Rev. Heydenburk in 1950, while living at Houghton, N.Y. Albert, the younger son, died in 1928. Clement is a missionary in Iran, where he has been for nearly twenty five years.

A congregational meeting was held on March 29, 1913, at which time the church members voted to unite with the Evangelical Church in Avilla to secure a pastor. Neither church felt it was financially able to support a pastor to serve their church alone, so the arrangement was made. Hopewell Church maintained its connections with the Presbyterian boards and contributed to the Presbyterian objectives. All pastors, however, were of the Evangelical faith.

On April 20, 1913, Rev. Frank Erne became the first Evangelical minister to serve the two churches. His family consisted of his wife, Tillie, sons, Spurgeon and Judson and daughter, Prudence. They resided in the Evangelical parsonage in Avilla, and Rev. Erne preached once every Sunday at each church, driving back and forth in a surrey drawn by a horse. They were interested in the work at Hopewell, and were faithful in attendance at the Women's Missionary Society and Christian Endeavor.

Rev. Erne's work at Hopewell was blessed with success from the first. A three week revival was held and 30 persons were received into the church at the close of the meeting.

In 1914 another series of meetings were held, and again 30 persons united with the church.

In the summer of 1915 plans were made for remodeling the church, and immediately work was begun. A basement was dug and a new wall was built. The old entry was torn down, and a new entrance and two Sunday School rooms were erected. The Pulpit was relocated and a railing built around it. New floors were laid and new pews installed. The stoves were replaced with a new furnace, a bell was purchased, outside walls were painted, the inside was re-decorated, and new pulpit furniture was purchased. The cost of improvements was about \$2000.00, which had been raised by the time the church was dedicated. Halferty Brothers were the carpenters in charge.

The church was dedicated on October 13, 1915. Sunday School and Morning Worship were held. The Richert Brothers were holding evangelistic meetings in Churubusco, and were present to assist in the morning services. The church was dedicated in the afternoon by Rev. Truesdale, pastor of the Kendallville Presbyterian Church. Another service was held in the evening and attended by a large audience.

Immediately, Rev. Erne began a revival meeting, which was well attended and a great spiritual uplift was felt by the church. A number of new members were added to the church roll, after these meetings had continued for five weeks.

In April, 1916, Rev. Erne left the Indiana Conference of the Evangelical Church and went to Texas for several years. Later he returned to Indiana and preached for several years, until he was forced to retire by ill health. Rev. & Mrs. Erne are both deceased.

Rev. Mentor O. Herman was then assigned to the Hopewell-Avilla circuit, and preached his first sermon on April 23, 1916. Rev. Herman was a young man, and

brought with him his wife, Romola, and his wife's mother Mrs. Hofferbert, a devout Christian loved by all the Hopewell people. Mrs. Hofferbert died in 1921. The Herman's first baby, Louise Romola, was born in Avilla in September 1916. They had a son after they left.

The Herman's were faithful workers in our church and the Women's Missionary Society. Revival meetings were held each year Rev. Herman was at Hopewell. In 1916 these meetings lasted four weeks. In 1917 and 1918 shorter periods of services were held. Due to the influenza epidemic, no services were held from October 6, to November 17, 1918, and again from December 15, 1918, to January 5, 1919.

During Rev. Herman's pastorate World War I took seven young men from the Hopewell congregation into the Army. These were Walter Crothers, Fred Crothers, Leroy Good, Marion L. Jarrett, Walter Swinehart, Ervin Swinehart, and Wallace Renkenberger.

Rev. Herman left Hopewell for a new charge in Linn Grove, Indiana on April 21, 1919. He later became District Superintendent with headquarters in Indianapolis, but is now retired. They spend their summers at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee, and winters in Florida.

Rev. Byron G. Smith became our next pastor and first preached on April 27, 1919. His family consisted of his wife, Irene, and their children, Wade, Esther, and Margaret.

Rev. Smith held a series of meetings from August 27, to September 7, 1919, and later in November another short meeting was held. Revival meetings were held in 1920 and 1921, and in 1922 the Poling Evangelistic Party held services for two weeks. Charles Poling was the speaker, Dan Hughes the singer, and Charles Braun the pianist. Fine

crowds were attracted every night, and many were greatly helped by these services. Many of our present members united with the church during the time of Rev. Smith's ministry. Some improvements were added to the church property while Rev. Smith was pastor, the principal one being a Delco plant to furnish electric current for lighting the church. This system was used until REMC power was provided in 1938.

Rev. Smith served the Hopewell congregation for seven busy years, preaching his last sermon May 9, 1926. They went to Fort Wayne where both Rev. & Mrs. Smith became teachers in the Fort Wayne Bible School. He continued in this position until his death, which came very suddenly May 26, 1934. Mrs. Smith resides in Fort Wayne.

Rev. Ira Steele became our next pastor and delivered his first sermon May 16, 1926. His family was grown, so only his wife, Laura came to Avilla with him. Rev. & Mrs. Steele were held in high regard by Hopewell people, and they served faithfully during the five years they were in charge of the church. Revival meetings were held and a number of additional members were added to the church during the years of 1926 to 1931. Rev. Steele's farewell sermon was on May 10, 1931, and they left for a new charge at Logansport. Rev. Steele passed away there July 2, 1948.

Our next pastor was Rev. Clarence Bitzer, and he delivered his first sermon May 17, 1931, Rev. Bitzer was a young man with a wife, Olive, and three children, Helen, Clarence, Jr. and Lloyd, who was just four months old when he was brought to Hopewell the first time. The Bitzer's were good workers in the church and the Missionary Society. Mrs. Bitzer, with her beautiful voice, and Helen, an accomplished pianist, added a great deal of pleasure and inspiration to church services. Revival meetings were held every

year with great spiritual benefits to those who attended. Rev. Bitzer was always ready to help wherever needed, whether it is with the Bible or a paint brush.

Rev. Bitzer preached his farewell sermon on May 1, 1938, after being in Avilla for seven years, and took up his new duties as Superintendent of Oakwood Park (the Evangelical Assembly Grounds) at Lake Wawasee. He now is serving a church at Carmi, Illinois. It was with a feeling of loss that good-bye was said to this family, for Hopewell people had grown to care a great deal for the Bitzers.

His successor was Rev. Charles Davis, who came to Avilla with his wife, Blanche, and son Herman. Rev. Davis began his duties on May 15, 1938.

A reception was held at the Avilla Gym for both Rev. Bitzer and Rev. Davis on May 20, 1938. It was also the 25th anniversary of the union of the Avilla and Hopewell churches under the same minister. Invitations were sent to the former living pastors, and Rev. & Mrs. Herman attended.

Rev. Davis served Hopewell two years, and conducted evangelistic meetings both years with some good results. Presently he is serving at Butler, Indiana.

May 5, 1940, marked the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. Martin W. Sunderman, who came to Avilla with his wife, a former Avilla girl, Bertha Stanley. Meetings were held during the first two years of his pastorate, but no special meetings were held in 1942, due to the war conditions. As a result of personal evangelism, several people were brought into the church fellowship. On October 31, 1943, a study of the Gospel of John was begun, which lasted two weeks. It was quite well attended, and those who took part were benefited by the study.

On Good Friday night and Easter Sunday, 1944, ten children and young people became members of the church. Of those ten received into Christian fellowship, an interesting fact is that nine of them are fourth and fifth generations descendants of early members of our church. Four are great-great-granddaughters of Rev. J.P. Moore, the early pastor, and five are great-grandchildren of a charter member of the church.

In 1942, 1943, and 1944 a number of young men were called into the armed services of the United States. The Honor Roll of the church for World War II had ten names on it.

Those were:

Everett McKee	Junior Bradley
Lee McKee	Raymond Scheurich
Owen Suits	Arthur Zolman
Glen Bradley	Richard McCoy
Dean Cramer	Guy Zolman

All returned safely and are now engaged in work in various parts of the country. Several more young men have been in the service since then.

Rev. Sunderman continued his ministry at Hopewell until the latter part of November 1945. He and Mrs. Sunderman were returning from visiting a daughter in Charleston, West Virginia, when they were involved in an automobile accident, injuring them quite seriously.

On their return to Avilla, it was evident that Rev. Sunderman's preaching days were over. His speech was affected and his health impaired. They moved to Fort Wayne, where he passed away May 19, 1952. Mrs. Sunderman still lives in Fort Wayne.

Following Rev. Sunderman's forced retirement, Burch Surbrook, a student at the Fort Wayne Bible School acted as supply pastor from January until May 19, 1946, when Rev. Hilbert J. Berger came to take up the pastoral duties of the two churches. Rev. Berger

and his wife, Geneva were young people. A son, Danny and a daughter, Becky were born while they lived in Avilla.

On November 4, 1946, the dedication of the Fellowship Hall was held, and event made possible by the heirs of the Jonas Strouse Family. The deed for the Hopewell School and school grounds were signed by about fifty descendants of the original donors, Jonas Strouse and his wife, Anna, and was presented to the trustees of the Hopewell Church. Rev. Berger conducted the ceremony of dedication, followed by a reception and supper at which about twenty of the living representatives of the Strouse family were present. The members of the congregation did some remodeling and made it into a pleasant meeting place where social fellowship of the church people may be enjoyed.

Several people united with the church during Rev. Berger's ministry. In the early summer of 1948, it was decided to provide some extra Sunday School rooms. Two rooms were made upstairs, and the old entry was converted into a class room, and a new entry was built on the south side of the building.

Rev. Berger was moved from Avilla and sent to Dunlap, Indiana, in April, 1949, where he is presently pastor of the EUB Church.

When conference met in April, 1949, Rev. Lloyd Emerson Smith and Mrs. Smith were sent to Avilla, and their first service at Hopewell was May 8, 1949. Rev. Smith served our church during the next year. There had been for some time a growing conviction that Hopewell should sever their connection with the Avilla church and secure a Presbyterian pastor. After 36 years of harmonious relations, it was felt that it was time to go back to the denomination in which the church was founded. Several meetings were held with the Avilla Church, the District Superintendent of the Evangelical conference, and several

ministers of the Fort Wayne Presbytery. The District Superintendent took the matter under advisement, and in a few days a letter was received from him severing the arrangement. Rev. Smith preached his last sermon April 30, 1950. The text of his sermon was "Tell My People to Go Forward".

Thirty-six years of working with a pastor of another denomination, and yet we were willing and anxious to "go forward" in our own denomination. Those years were prosperous years. Quite a large number of new members were added to our church. We found that we could work with and accomplish much good with people of other religious denominations. We paid our own way and carried on the work of the missionary program of the church with a great deal of success. Most of those pastors and their wives took an active part in our Missionary Society, helped with the programs, attended Presbyterial and District Meetings, and in every way possible, helped to make the Avilla-Hopewell circuit a success.

Our connection with the Evangelical Church being severed, we were now under the ruling of the Presbyterian denomination. Rev. Craven, pastor of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, was the first moderator to be appointed for our church. There have been a number of moderators since then, one being appointed whenever we have been without a regular pastor.

On May 8, 1950, a supply pastor was sent to Hopewell to conduct services. He was Wes Felmlee, an elder in the Elkhart Church. He had been ordained a minister in the Nazarene Church, but was not affiliated with the Elkhart School System. He was much interested in young people and liked by nearly all who knew him. He served until August 26, 1951.

On Sunday, August 12, 1951, a congregational meeting was held, presided over by Rev. Miller of the National Missions Board. Plans were made to share with the Albion Presbyterian Church the ministerial services of Don Lagle, a student at McCormick Theological Seminary, and not yet ordained. Mr. Lagle began his work at Hopewell on September 2, 1951. He resided in the manse in Albion with Mrs. Lagle and two small daughters. He finished his seminary work and early in 1952 accepted a call to a church in Richmond, Indiana, preaching his final sermon May 18, 1952. He presently is assistant pastor at the Broadway Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Again Hopewell was without a regular pastor. A number of candidates came to the church and preached trial sermons. Wes Felmlee again was contacted and when no other minister was present, he conducted the services. On November, 30, 1952, Rev. W. Hilton Petry was present to preach as a candidate. A congregational meeting was held December 14th, with Rev. Ratz presiding. It was agreed to send a call to Rev. Petry, which he accepted, and Rev. Petry began his ministry here January 18, 1953, with Felmlee continuing as supply pastor until then. In his family was a wife, Faith, an older son who died suddenly on July 29, 1953, in Ohio where he worked, and a younger son, William at home. Rev. Petry served until late in December 1953. They left shortly afterward to take a church in Kansas. They are not living in Salina, Kansas, but he is not in the active ministry.

Following Rev. Petry's departure no regular pastor was in charge for a number of weeks. Then on February 21, 1954, Wes Felmlee again returned, to come regularly except when candidate ministers were present. On May 23, 1954, a student from McCormick Seminary, William Werth, gave a trial sermon. A call was extended to

Werth on May 30th, which he accepted, and he began a pastorate in Albion and Hopewell on June 20th, bringing with him his wife, Mary Lou, and small son, Dickie. Two daughters and a son were added to their family while they lived in Albion. Rev. Werth was not yet graduated when he first served these churches, but he finished his seminary work early in 1955, and was examined by the Presbytery Board. On March 21, 1955, Rev. Werth was ordained and installed in the Presbyterian Church in Albion.

Church work proceeded steadily. Early in 1955 discussion was begun as to the advisability of a remodeling project on the church. Plans were made for an addition to be built, scale drawings were made to show what was being proposed, and specifications were drawn up showing the materials to be used in the construction.

A congregational meeting was held at the church on October 16, 1955, at which time the congregation voted to go ahead with the proposed addition. General contract was let to the Churubusco Lumber Company. Early in December the Building Finance Committee made a canvas of the congregation to secure subscriptions for the building fund.

Ground was broken for the new addition on May 6, 1956. Mrs. Jennie Renkenberger, oldest member of the church and Bonnie Gay, youngest member, and Rev. Werth took part in this ceremony. Construction began in May, continued through the summer and was finished in early November.

A dedication service was held on December 9, 1956, with the Rev. Dr. D. Robert Hutchinson, Moderator of the Synod of Indiana giving the sermon. Orlo McCoy presented the keys to the Building Committee and Owen Suits; Chairman presented them to the Church which was accepted by Jay Snell on behalf of the Trustees.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Owen Suits, Chairman
Mrs. Jay Snell
Melvin Yarian
Howard Scheurich
Leland McCoy

BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE: Guy Zolman, Chairman
Merle Renkenberger
Raymond Pfleidner
Eugene Balliet
Mrs. Kermit Whan

This addition provided four additional class rooms, a nursery, space for future rest rooms, and renovated the old entry. Modern fold doors were installed between classrooms and the sanctuary, and an additional heating system was added. This improvement was completed at about \$200.00 less than the original estimate of \$9000.00. This addition, also, was completely paid for by the time of its dedication.

In May 1656, Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Snook and family, members of the church for a number of years, presented as a gift to the church, a Wurlitzer Spinnet Organ. It was dedicated on July 28, 1056, and has given much beauty and joy to the musical programs of our church.

Rev. Werth continued as pastor until November 17, 1057, when he left to begin a new pastorate at Whiteland, Indiana where he is now located.

Following Rev. Werth's departure, several ministers conducted services for a few weeks. Later Wes Felmlee came again to fill the pulpit for several months. On June 8, 1958, Rev. Wilmer McMahan came as a candidate, and that night at a congregational meeting a call was issued to him to become pastor of Hopewell and Albion. This call he accepted, and returned to fill these pulpits on July 27th. In the intervening weeks he went

on a tour of Europe and the Holy Land. The McMahan's, their son, Ty and daughter, Cynthia, are now living in the manse at Albion.

While it is too soon to state the results of Rev. McMahan's ministry at Hopewell, there is plenty of material in our church and the vicinity round about, to provide the opportunity for great things to be done. Let us begin the second hundred years resolving to build a strong church, solely dedicated to the "Faith of Our Fathers" in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We would like to be able in this book to mention all those of our church who have served in a special way, as Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Pianists, Organists, Choristers, Sunday School Teachers, etc., but this is not possible because the list would be too long.

We will make special mention of two of our young men, however, members of our church who are not preparing for the Christian ministry. Paul DeHoff is now serving as pastor of the Lakeside EUB Church in Whiting, Indiana, and is also a student at the Naperville Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois.

Marion McCoy is serving as assistant pastor at the First Presbyterian Church, Charleroi, Pennsylvania, and is studying at Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1858 – 1958 ...One hundred years as a church in this location. We look about us as our founding fathers must have done, and see results of what our labors in the past have accomplished. But we dare not be satisfied with what has been done, when there is so much yet to be accomplished.

We that are now the senior members of our church here at Hopewell, can only hold the torch of our faith high, until we must relinquish it when our task is done, then throw it to those who are coming after us to carry on in the future.

May the next hundred years produce a Glorious Church in this place, dedicated wholly to serving Our Master.

By Mrs. E.H. (Mary) McKee

CENTENNIAL GIFTS

PULPIT BIBLE, in memory of Edward Zolman, presented by Mrs. Estella Zolman and family.

CANDLELIGHTING SET, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Weaver, presented by their children, Mr. & Mrs. Lauren Weaver, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Growcock, Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Whan, and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Miller.

\$100.00 EDUCATIONAL FUND, \$50.00 to Marion McCoy and \$50.00 to Paul DeHoff, ministerial students, in memory of Howard Renkenberger, presented by Mrs. Anna Renkenberger and family.

BASKET OF FLOWERS, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Own, presented by their children, Miss Lucy Owen and Mrs. Anna Renkenberger and family.

Other gifts which have been presented by various individuals and Sunday School classes:

ELECTRIC CLOCK

RUG for Nursery

FOLDING CHAIRS

BRASS CROSS & EAGLE

CHAIR for Nursery

BASSINETTE for Nursery

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

These gifts were all dedicated in a special Dedicatory Service on Tuesday evening, October 21, 1958.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES:

General Committees:

Mrs. E.H. McKee, Chairman
Mrs. Wallace Scheurich
Mrs. Reuel Moore

Dinner Committee:

Mrs. Forrest DeHoff
Mrs. Kermit Whan

Publicity Committee:

Mrs. Rex Watson
Owen Suits
Forrest DeHoff

Invitations Committee:

Mrs. Owen Suits
Mrs. Keith Thomas

Social Evening Committee:

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Snell
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy

Music Committee:

Forrest DeHoff
Mrs. Reuel Moore
Raymond Pfleidner

Historical Display:

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Anderson

Souvenir Booklet:

Mrs. Rex Watson	Mrs. Owen Suits
Mrs. E.H. McKee	Mrs. Reuel Moore
Mrs. Wallace Scheurich	

Historian:

Mrs. E.H. McKee

CHURCH DIRECTORY – 1958

Wilmer McMahan

Minister

SESSION

Mrs. Jay Snell, Clerk
R.T. Pfleidner
Melvin Yarian

Forrest DeHoff
Merle Renkenberger
Guy Zolman

DEACONS

Kermit Whan, Chairman
Jay Snell

Richard McCoy

TRUSTEES

Howard Anderson, Chairman
Bobby Renkenberger
Mrs. Rex Watson, Treasurer

Leland McCoy
Howard Scheurich

MUSIC

ORGANISTS

Mrs. Reuel Moore
Mrs. Owen Suits
Mrs. Keith Thomas

CHORISTERS

Forrest DeHoff
Raymond Pfleidner

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Guy Zolman

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY Mrs. Jay Snell, President

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

ADULT:

Mrs. E.H. McKee
Forrest DeHoff

JUNIOR HIGH:

Mrs. Don Snook
Mrs. Howard Scheurich

FRIENDSHIP:

Mrs. Jay Snell
Howard Scheurich

JUNIOR:

Mrs. Kermit Whan
Mrs. Merle Renkenberger

GOLDEN RULE:

Mrs. Wallace Scheurich
Raymond Pfleidner

PRIMARY:

Mrs. Eugene Balliet
Mrs. Lauren Weaver

SENIOR HIGH:

Leo Pippenger
Arthur Moore

KINDERGARDEN:

Mrs. Forrest DeHoff
Mrs. Guy Zolman

MINISTERS OF HOPEWELL CHURCH

Rev. Alex Forbes	1858
Rev. Joseph P. Moore	1865 – 1884
Rev. Lloyd	
Rev. Martin	
Rev. Joseph P. Moore	1886 – 1892
Rev. Charles West	1893 – 1900
Rev. John Hawkins	1900 – 1903
Rev. Price Summers	1906 – 1907
Mr. Campbell – Student – Summer	1908
Herman Kunkle – Student – Summer	1909
Rev. Frank Heydenburk	1910 – 1913
Rev. Frank Erne	1913 – 1916
Rev. Mentor O. Herman	1916 – 1919
Rev. Byron G. Smith	1919 – 1926
Rev. Ira Steele	1926 – 1931
Rev. Clarence Bitzer	1931 – 1938
Rev. Charles Davis	1938 – 1940
Rev. Martin Sunderman	1940 – 1946
Rev. Hilbert J. Berger	1946 – 1949
Rev. Lloyd E. Smith	1949 – 1950
Rev. Don Lagle	1951 – 1952
Rev. W. Hilton Petry	1953 – 1954
Rev. William Werth	1954 – 1957
Rev. Wilmer McMahan	1958 – 1960
Rev. Alfred Gresse	1961 – 1965
Rev. Chester A. Quear	1966 – 1974
Rev. Donald Abbey	1976 – 1983
Rev. Kennard Robinson	1983 - Present

A CONTINUATION OF CHURCH HISTORY
HOPEWELL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1958 – 1983

One Hundred Years – a great celebration and a good time was had by all. On October 19, 1958, a Centennial Musical Program was held at 7:30 p.m. with Professor David Heydenburk at the organ and music by the Women's Trio. On Centennial Sunday the morning worship was a special service with Rev. McMahan preaching on the Doctrine of the Church. At 1:30 p.m. the service included a solo by Mrs. Joyce Smith; the history of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church given by Mary McKee, who wrote the foregoing 100 years, and a sermon by Rev. McCance of the Warsaw Presbyterian Church.

After the celebration, things settled down again and life pretty much went on as usual.

A canopy for the doors was authorized in Nov 1958, and this was installed, which changed the looks of the church somewhat and was the last major outside change to be made to date.

On April 20, 1960, Clement Heydenburk, the son of a former minister, now Missionary to Iran, came to speak about his work in Iran.

We celebrated on May 24, 1960, the ordination of Marion W. McCoy as a Presbyterian Minister at Hopewell, his home church. He and his wife and small daughter then took up an Assistant Pastor's job at Warren, Ohio where they remained three years.

Rev. McMahan accepted a call to Liberty, Indiana and declared the pulpit vacant on November 13, 1960. Rev. Oswald Morley of the Fort Wayne Bible College filled in as

supply pastor along with Rev. Peck, a retired Presbyterian minister. On Nov. 24, 1960, Rev. Paul DeHoff from Whiting, IN. held the Thanksgiving service.

It was noted from Session records that in 1959-1960, we had an all-time high of 106 communicant members, which has unfortunately decreased somewhat over the intervening years.

Paul DeHoff graduated from Naperville Seminary in May 1961, and was remembered by the church. He was ordained an Evangelical United Brethren Church minister who later merged with the Methodist Church.

During this period without a pastor several names were submitted as candidates by the Pulpit Committee.

On September 10, 1961, in a joint meeting with Albion, Hopewell approved a call to Rev. Alfred Gresse of Covington, IN, which was accepted, and on October 15, 1961, he was installed with a reception following in our church hall.

In November 1961, he showed slides of his mission work in China. During his pastorate we participated in Union Lenten Services, Thanksgiving morning services, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services which were well attended.

Hopewell hosted the Wabash River Presbytery on September 11, 1962, with the women of the church serving a noon meal.

Flint & Walling donated a new pump in May 1963, and it was voted to put down a new well rather than repair the old one.

New hymn books were bought in January 1965, by the Friendship Class.

Rev. Gresse asked to dissolve pastoral relations effective February 28, 1965, so he could accept a call to the Presbyterian Church in Clifton, Ohio. Rev. Richard Rodda of

Kendallville was appointed Moderator and Rev. Oswald Morley of Fort Wayne Bible College again became supply pastor.

On June 15, 1965, Rev. Dean Cope, chairman of Presbytery's Committee to evaluate the future of Albion-Hopewell churches, together with Rev. James Sala, William Visser, Charles Hosler, and E. Overman attended a Session Meeting and noted the statistic record of the two churches, and stated a committee had power to secure facts and asked the Clerk to prepare a list of communicant members, addresses, and average attendance in 1964.

It was feared that Presbytery would close our churches but after much discussion, meetings etc. the matter was dropped. During this period all small churches came under scrutiny, not just the Albion & Hopewell Yoked Parish.

In September 1965, Rev. Melvin Reynolds of Fort Wayne Bible College became supply minister.

Rev. Chester A. Quear of Columbus, Ohio came to candidate on November 21, 1965, and Rev. Rodda arranged a special meeting of Presbytery at a cost of \$5.00 per church, to approve his call. Rev. Quear was installed at Albion on January 16, 1966, at 7:00 p.m.

Clement Heydenburk again spoke at a family night on May 15, 1966, telling of his work in India.

At a Congregational meeting on May 27, 1966, it was voted to purchase the Leo Pippenger residence next to the church and hall for a future manse, at a cost of \$14,500. There was a fund drive and by the time the purchase was completed the manse was fully paid due to a generous match donation by Melvin Yarian, as well as other members. Since this time no minister has chosen to live there and it continues to be rented.

Mildred Shepherd requested the use of church facilities for a Day Bible School Camp in June 1966, which was granted, and many of the children spent an enjoyable time at her camp. This was repeated thru 1970.

During a session meeting on March 9, 1966, it was voted to incorporate the church to be known as the Hopewell United Presbyterian Church, Inc.” and the necessary steps were taken to accomplish this.

The Session authorized church signs to be erected at various points leading to our church with Richard McCoy, Kermit Whan, and Leland McCoy as the committee.

In June 1966, it was voted to set up a Memorial Fund and the first gift was made by Pat Isay in memory of Emma McCoy, mother of Welcome DeHoff and a long-time member.

A Victory Supper was held on July 17, 1966, with 88 members and guests attending to celebrate the payment in full of the manse.

A December 1966 nomination to Presbytery of our elder, Forrest DeHoff to attend General Assembly was made, late voted on by the Presbytery and Forrest was elected. He and Welcome went to Seattle, WA in May 1967, to become our FIRST Commissioner to General Assembly. He gave a report on it June 11, 1967, at the church and later on to Presbytery.

At a Congregational meeting on January 8, 1967, it was voted to modernize the worship center and the Chancel Committee was made up of Leland McCoy, Anna Watson, Keith Thomas, Craig Ream, Pauline Snell, Ronald Renkenberger, Kerry Scheurich and Helen Moore. Many meetings were held and trips made before a decision was made on the appropriate work to be done.

On January 21, 1968, the Chancel Committee gave their report and recommendations to the congregation and by unanimous vote it decided to go ahead. The Chancel Committee was then made Finance Committee and a fund drive was made, securing pledges and memorial gifts.

The modernization of the Church took in painting of walls and woodwork; tearing out the old corner altar and building of a new one across the front of the church; installation of new pews with cushions, along with a matching pulpit, lectern, choir seats and railing, and a wooden Celtic cross was hung above the communion table, also made in matching wood. The aisles were carpeted and we all enjoyed our "new look". Again, we believe that the money was fully raised by the time the work was completed.

On December 1, 1968, the session voted to accept the Memorial Gift of Aluminum and Glass Entrance Doors which were placed in memory of Gerry and Berniece DeHoff by their children.

The new lights in the sanctuary were dedicated in memory of Mary McKee, a long-time and faithful member of the church, and our 100th year historian.

It was noted in the reports that the Renovation Committee financial report read as follows:

RECEIPTS:		\$5,146.16
PAID OUT:	Aumsbaugh Furniture, carpet	\$ 912.39
	Middlebury Church Furniture	3736.50
	Wiring	50.00
	Heating supplies	76.22
	Avilla Lumber Co., platform	153.82
	Jordan Construction, paint	117.23

It should be noted that the men of the church provided all the labor, thus keeping the cost of renovation to a minimum. Later in Session minutes is recorded a THANK YOU to Leland McCoy for co-coordinating all the work...

Rev. William Heimach of Auburn dedicated the renovated sanctuary on May 18, 1969, at 2:00 p.m.

In May 1971, the Melvin M. Yarian Memorial Fund was established, after receipt of \$5,000.00 bequest under his will.

On January 30, 1972, the congregation voted to buy a new organ and the committee consisted of Norma Thomas, organist, Ronald Renkenberger, Guy Zolman, Anna Watson and Velda Scheurich.

The Trustees, at that meeting, were appointed a Rest Room Committee.

At a Special Congregational meeting on February 27, 1972, it was voted to purchase a Yamaha Organ at a cost of \$1,820.00 and take the money from the Melvin M. Yarian Memorial Fund. The organ was dedicated on June 25, 1972, by William Shoot from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Sometime during the 1970's we were changed into three Presbyteries throughout the State of Indiana, and we were assigned to Wabash Valley Presbyterial which primarily meets in Logansport, IN and various other churches six times a year. Presbits came into being, and Presbit #6 consisted of nine churches in LaGrange, Steuben, Noble and DeKalb Counties. The name was later changed to Presbit of the Lakes. Presbit usually meet just the week before Presbytery in a rotating schedule to discuss things of interest to the local churches that need to be brought before Presbytery or worked on locally.

As a mission effort of our Presbit, we established the Angola Mission Foundation, now known as the Presbyterian Mission of the Lakes, and through these efforts a new church, Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes came into being. The focus of the Mission Foundation now is directed at interpreting mission work for the Presbit; aiding the local churches in mission programs; Widow-to-Widow clubs, Women-in-Need counseling; and a Self-Help Opportunities Center nor of Auburn. Much has been accomplished with Hopewell's Mission Funds locally and the church congregation can be proud to be a part of this work in our area.

In May 1973, it was voted to purchase new hymnals for the church.

Problems in the church was noted in 1973 and after much discussion and meetings with various committees of Presbytery, on January 10, 1974, the Session requested Rev. Quear to resign offering salary, rent and utilities through July 1, 1974, with his services to terminate on February 1, 1974. On February 3, 1974, the congregation voted to concur with Session action and the pastoral relations were dissolved with Rev. Quear continuing on as pastor at Albion.

Rev. Paul Hopwood of Salem Center was appointed our moderator.

On May 19, 1974, the Ministerial Relations Committee requested a Congregational Meeting to "unyoke" the Albion Parish from Hopewell. A Special congregational meeting was held on June 9, 1974, and the motion to unyoke the parish passed. Action was taken at a later Presbytery meeting to approve this action, and since that time we have had separate pastors. Rev. Hopwood held the Sunday services for us until he resigned at Salem Center, and then Rev. Allen Reed of Garrett was appointed Moderator and he became our supply pastor. Rev. Reed was well-liked by most of the congregation

and did much to bring about good relations in the church and Presbytery. He continued to serve as Moderator until he moved from Garrett in 1982.

In June 1976 we joined with the Avilla churches in sponsoring a Laotian family to live in Avilla. A general shower was given for them and they received many useful gifts.

On August 29, 1976, the session approved hiring Rev. Donald Abbey, a Methodist Minister, on contract as a Stated Supply Pastor. Rev. & Mrs. Abbey continued to live northeast of Fort Wayne and served Hopewell on a two-day a week basis. Dorothy Abbey contributed much with her music and sharing of pastoral calling with her husband.

In July 1977 the session approved the purchase of a speaker system from Stroman's. This boost of sound from the pulpit enabled the hard-of-hearing to better understand what was being said.

Rev. Abbey instituted the Sweetheart Banquet in February 1977 – an effort to focus on the importance of those relationships in our lives, which we often take for granted.

February 1978 saw the first of annual Friendship Banquets for all church members. Rev. & Mrs. Abbey and the committees each year worked hard to make them an enjoyable time for all. In April 1983 Welcome and Forrest DeHoff were honored for their many years of service at Hopewell, and appropriate plaques were presented to them.

A library was started in August 1978 to encourage the reading of Christian books and materials. Many volumes were contributed by Rev. & Mrs. Abbey and others.

During 1980 the Trustees insulated the church and installed storm windows in an effort to cut back heating bills.

Rev. Abbey was made a member of Presbytery in February 1982 and appointed Moderator for Hopewell.

With regret, on June 19, 1983, Rev. Abbey tendered his resignation effective July 17, 1983 to the Session, stating that he felt the church was in good shape and able to go forward without his further help. He and Dorothy moved to Seattle, WA to be near their daughter, Donna, David and only granddaughter, Dawn. Rev. Abbey did much to improve the outlook towards mission work and local church work. As time moves on, we will be able to further assess his impact upon Hopewell.

The Session then hired Rev. Kennard Robinson, of Syracuse, IN to be Interim Supply Pastor. Due to vacations, a Moderator has not yet been appointed so no further action can be taken except to keep on with our usual services.

In writing this last twenty-five years of history I could not help but reflect on how short 25 years it...after the Centennial in 1958 my home was blessed with two sons, who have grown up and married, all before our next celebration of the 125th anniversary.

We are now living in the “space age” – how will we fill our “space” in life? It’s fast becoming the “computer age”. How does the future of Hopewell “compute”?

By: Mrs. Rex (Anna) Watson

ADDENDUM

Paul DeHoff has served several churches in Indiana and New Jersey and is not pastor at the First United Methodist Church at Millville, New Jersey. He completed studies for his doctorate on June 2, 1981, at Princeton Theological Seminary. He and Rosalyn have six children, four of whom are now married.

Marion W. McCoy went to Chaplain School in Richmond, Virginia and in 1966 became a full-time Chaplain with the Navy serving in Da Nang, Viet Nam; Oakland, CA;

Long Beach, CA; Whidbey Island, WA; Newport, R.I.; Japan; Midway Island, So. Pacific and now is located at Jacksonville, FL. He and his wife have three children.

Of the former ministers, we regret to report that most have deceased.

Rev. Hilbert J. Berger is Pastor of United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, IN.

Rev. Don Lagle was last heard of in Bradenton, FL.

Rev. William Werth is living at 420 Hayes Road, Toledo, OH.

Rev. Wilmer McMahan left the ministry to become a teacher and we have lost track of him.

Rev. Don Abbey just moved to Seattle, WA.

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES

Dinner Committee:

The General Committee
Howard & Jessie Scheurich

Publicity Committee:

Mr. & Mrs. John Herron
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Scheurich

Invitations Committee:

Marjorie Zolman
Lois Renkenberger
Enid Weaver

Music Committee:

Kathy Stoops
Amy Renkenberger
Wendy Renkenberger

History Booklets:

Anna Watson
Diana Mynhier

Historical:

Forrest & Welcome DeHoff
Tom Renkenberger

Flower Committee:

Enid Weaver
Lois Renkenberger

General Committee:

Gerry & Carol Scheurich
Leland & Eldora McCoy
Jay & Mary Snell
David & Kathy Stoops
Debbie Knox

CHURCH OFFICERS – 1983

ELDERS

Elaine Parquet
Anna Watson
Leland McCoy

Diana Mynhier
Guy Zolman
Eugene Balliet

TRUSTEES

Bobby Renkenberger
Lois Renkenberger

Jay Snell
Douglas Mynhier

DEACONS

Debbie Knox

Douglas Mynhier

Tom Renkenberger

TREASURER

Mary Snell

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Enid Weaver

Lois Renkenberger

CHORISTER

Forrest DeHoff

ASS'T. CHORISTERS

Debbie Knox

Kathy Stoops

Wendy Renkenberger

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Tom Renkenberger

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guy Zolman

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

ADULT CLASS:

Forrest DeHoff

FRIENDSHIP CLASS:

Leland McCoy

Ethel Balliet

GOLDEN RULE CLASS:

Rev. Kennard Robinson

JUNIOR CLASS:

Gail Scheurich

PRIMARY CLASS:

Lois Renkenberger

Carol Scheurich

HOPEWELL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1983 – 1998

140 YEARS

Since the 125th Anniversary, Hopewell has remained the “Lighthouse on the Hill”, calling one and all to come and share in the celebration of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Kennard Robinson accepted the position of Pastor of Hopewell October 1983. He has remained with Hopewell for the last 15 years. Since Rev. Robinson was not a member to Presbytery a Moderator was appointed. Rev. Charles Gordon from the Garrett Presbyterian Church accepted the position of Moderator.

On July 28, 1987, Rev. Robinson became a member of Presbytery and became Moderator of Hopewell.

Hopewell joined Green Center United Methodist Church as a sister church in 1985, when Rev. Robinson accepted their call for a minister. We shared a blessed fellowship with Green Center. Many of our special services were combined. The two churches created a choir under the direction of Cathy Petrie. We performed special services on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. At Christmas we would alternate every other year hosting the Candlelight Service. Easter Season became well know for the reenactment of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday. The first performance was in 1988 and every year since then. Sunrise service was alternated every other year with the host church preparing a special breakfast for all to share.

During the Lenten Season, we combined to have a special Bible Study. The churches alternated hosting the Bible Studies each week and refreshments were served. The Bible Studies were well attended for the spiritual food as well as the physical food!

Bible School each summer was combined the Green Center, Sugar Grove, Burr Oak and Hopewell. Each church sent teachers, helpers and children.

In June of 1997, Rev. Robinson retired from Green Center. However; due to the close relationship of the two churches, special services are still shared.

In July of 1998, the community churches combined to hold a week of Tent Meetings at the Green Center Community Center. Many people gave their lives to the Lord or renewed their commitment to Him.

In the fall of 1989, a major remodeling project was begun at the Hopewell parsonage. The work was done by members of the congregation. We met on Saturdays and any evening that was available. The work was completed in November 1982. The house was beautiful. It was a job that all could be proud of.

The church has had many changes done to it over the past 15 years. In 1994, the Bell Tower underwent major repair and given a new look. In the summer of 1997 the windows and trim of the church were painted by Frank and Frank Jr. Monte. Frank rebuilt the cross and donated it to the church. A handicap ramp and a new door were added to the east side of the church. There was new furniture purchased for the children's classrooms. New carpet for the entrance was donated by Dennis and Elaine Parquet in the summer of 1998. The parking lot was surfaced with new gravel and new steps were purchased for the south side of the Fellowship Hall.

A Conn Organ was purchased in March 1992. The purchase price was \$2,000 with \$1,000 being donated by Gordon and Marilyn Simpson. The Yamaha Spinet was sold for \$500.00.

New hymnals were purchased in November 1997. Guy and Marjorie Zolman had volunteered to donate \$600.00 towards the purchase of the hymnals. Guy passed away November 30, 1997, so Marjorie gave the money as a Memorial gift.

Bibles were donated to the church in Loving Memory of Sheri Renkenberger who was killed in an auto accident May 30, 1989.

In August 1998, a Birthday Party was held for the 100th Birthday of Virgie McCoy at Sacred Heart Home where she resides. She is the oldest member of Hopewell.

Congratulations Virgie!!

You may have noticed that the Fellowship Hall, which was once an old schoolhouse, is getting a facelift. This building was constructed in 1899, and was a one room schoolhouse. Many of our past and some of our current members used to attend this little school. In 1999, this building will have served the community for 100 years.

In the 15 years that have passed since the last celebration, Hopewell has seen 21 loving members go home to glory. **In Loving Memory of the following, I dedicate this Writing:**

**Katherine Weeks
Rodney Snook
Bernice Renkenberger
Sheri Renkenberger
Leo Pippenger
Phyllis Renkenberger
Arthur Moore
Edith Coil
Clarence Renkenberger
Lucille Pippenger
Guy Zolman**

**Audrey Snook
Leland McCoy
Forrest DeHoff
Howard Scheurich
Wallace Scheurich
Zelma Scheurich
Bruce Coil
Veulah DeCamp
Eugene Balliet
Jacob Feichter**

As I reflect on the last 15 years, my heart floods over with love and respect for this church and its caring family. In any given situation, the members and friends of Hopewell reach out and give of whatever is asked for. When Dad (Guy Zolman) passed away in November 1997, I was so touched by the extra work that everyone picked up to fill in for a man who did so much. Dad was so proud of this church and he loved it so much. I have been a part of Hopewell all of my life and the love that Dad had for this church has become a part of me. I know Dad is looking down on Hopewell with a huge smile on his face. I feel a part of Dad here when I enter this church. I am sure as each of you enters here; many fond memories flood your mind as you reflect on the past. We will continue in the faith and love of those who have gone before us and create many more memories for the next generation of Hopewell United Presbyterian Church.

By: Diana (Zolman) Mynhier

COMMITTEES FOR "140th CELEBRATION

FOOD

Vonda Harlan

Don & Jean Fredrickson

Debbie Knox

PROGRAM

Pat & Amy Carpenter

Debbie Knox

DECORATIONS

Lois Renkenberger

INVITATION

Lois Renkenberger

Debbie Knox

HISTORY

Diana Mynhier

ADVERTISING

Amy Carpenter

Thank you Ken and Ruth Robinson for the donation of the tent rental for this joyful Occasion.

A Special Thank You to all those who helped to make this celebration a lasting memory to everyone.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 1998

ELDERS

Dennis Parquet
Tom Renkenberger
Don Fredrickson

Elaine Parquet
Jean Fredrickson

TRUSTEES

Pat Carpenter
Ken Ramey
Trent Mynhier
Don Fredrickson

Tom Renkenberger
Lois Renkenberger
Doug Mynhier
Hallie Harp

DEACONS

Lois Renkenberger
Elaine Parquet
Mary Snell

Enid Weaver
Debbie Knox
Bobby Renkenberger

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Lois Renkenberger

Enid Weaver

TREASURER

Mary Snell

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Pat Carpenter
Wendy Hoopengardner
Ruth Robinson
Diana Mynhier

Amy Carpenter
Don Fredrickson
Mary Snell

HOPEWELL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HISTORY CONTINUED

1998 - 2008

The last time we communicated via this book was October 11, 1998. at Hopewell's 140th year anniversary. We shared together at the regular worship service followed by a catered meal of BBQ chicken and all the fixin's. After the meal we gathered in the Church for a few speakers talking about the history of our Church and then the featured presentation of a grand musical concert including the sax, the vibe, the marimba, and voices blending in song from Gordon & Marilyn Simpson and family.

Ten years have come and gone since then. Our Church continues to be blessed and to be a Blessing to members, friends and community.

Rev. Kennard Robinson has led, guided, strengthened and ministered with his loving kindness for the last 25 years.

Several renovations have occurred to the Fellowship Hall as well as the Church. The Hall kitchen was completely remodeled in 2003-2004. New cabinets, appliances, sink, and island were installed. A new furnace was installed in the Hall in 2000 and the floor was replaced in 2002. The foundation was poured in sections starting in 2002 and finishing in 2004. The old tables were replaced in 2005 with new tables that were donated. The last of the renovations for the Fellowship Hall was a new roof laid in 2007.

In 1999, the Fellowship Hall was 100 year. We are grateful for this historical building that has served this Church and Community for almost 110 years.

The Church interior was painted in 1999 for \$1800.00. The air conditioner had to be replaced in 2005. The most recent improvement was the new green metal roof.

In 2003 a new sign was completed. The playground equipment was purchased in 2004, to give our children a place to play.

In the last ten years we have seen seven babies baptized. We received into membership a total of 20 new members. Sadly we have said good-bye to nine saints who have gone to their Heavenly Home.

In Loving Memory of:

Rex Watson

Elaine Parquet

Dennis Parquet

Marjorie Zolman

Jay Snell

Bobby Renkenberger

Max Harlan

Welcome DeHoff

Ruth Robinson

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Hopewell continues to keep the tradition of many activities and programs that have been enjoyed in the past and new ones have been added.

The Valentine's Dinner was started by Rev. Abbey. It started out as a Sweetheart Banquet and became a family evening of enjoyment.

The highlight of the Easter Season is Easter Sunday. Sunrise service starts early in the morning with a special program and followed by the Sunrise breakfast. Our regular service is at the usual time with the kids having an Easter egg hunt at the end of the service.

When Rev. Robinson pastored Green Center and Hopewell Maundy Thursday was a combined service of the reenactment of the Lord's Supper. We still join together for this meaningful service.

The ice cream social has been a part of Hopewell for many years. It is held on the second Saturday of August. We still make our own ice cream and provide a full menu to the public.

Rev. Robinson invites the Church to his home on Lake Wawasee for a day away. Regular Worship services are suspended at the Church for that day. A carry-in lunch is served and boat rides are given. There is swimming available and this year some enjoyed a kayak ride. This is a day of fun and fellowship.

The newest program was started in 2007. Camp Hopewell has had two successful years and a great time for the campers, counselors and helpers. Tents are put up in the yard prior to camp day. Campers have a choice of staying overnight or doing day camp. Either way campers have plenty of activities to keep them busy. The day is started with breakfast followed by assembly in the Church where a Bible lesson is given. The Day is filled with activities like, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, crafts, games and more. These activities are available because of the generosity of the community. The campers are supervised by our staff of counselors, and helpers. Parents are invited to spend time with their children and join in the activities. Cooks provide three delicious meals per day with snacks in between. Camp Hopewell provides a way for children to gather together and learn of God's love through program and fellowship.

In the fall we get together for an evening of fun and games at the Oktoberfest. Dining on hotdogs roasted over the open fire and carry-in goodies satisfies one and all. After eating comes the anticipated BINGO, where everyone wins!

The Thanksgiving feast begins our Holiday season. Turkey with all the trimmings is served with various dishes and topped off with homemade pie. The day is finished off by decorating the Church for the Christmas Season.

At Christmas time we have a candlelight service held the Sunday evening before Christmas day. This service takes the congregation back to the night that Jesus was born finishing with the lighting of the candles and singing Silent Night as we welcome our Lord.

We are thankful for all the programs and activities that are planned not only for our enjoyment but most important for a closer walk with God.

MIRACLES

What is a miracle? A miracle is a special gift from God. Thinking about the miracles that this writer has seen happen not only in her life but to others in our own church family, I would like to relate three of them to the reader.

On a cold morning in the railroad yard at Steel Dynamics in Columbia City two railroad cars were being connected. Something happened, the locomotive driver did not hear or the command was lost in the wind to stop. Troy Mynhier was between those two cars when they came together. Troy was rushed to the hospital suffering from nine fractures to his pelvis. It was unclear if that was the extent of his injuries. On Christmas morning, it was evident that something more was wrong. Troy was rushed to surgery where a lacerated bowel was repaired. Troy underwent many months of therapy and faced another surgery down the road. A miracle – yes, a true gift from God because Troy is alive to be a father to his girls and a husband to Angie and he is thankful to his Creator for His loving grace.

Tiffany Knox-Harris went to town to get a gallon of milk. A task many of us do often, but this trip was different for Tiffany. She suffered a heart attack on the way home. She was discovered by her husband, John, who administered CPR until emergency units arrived. Tiffany was rushed to the hospital. She was on life support and in a coma. The doctors told the family that they needed to make a decision on whether to remove the life

support. After much praying, it was decided not to take her off the ventilator. Tiffany regained consciousness. Therapy was required because Tiffany had to relearn many of the things that we take for granted. She has undergone intense sessions of therapy and is doing very well. A miracle – yes, Tiffany is at home and regaining more and more strength daily, because of another gift from God.

The last miracle I want to tell you about happened to Rev. Robinson. While vacationing in Cancun Mexico with his family, Ken became gravely ill. It was thought that he was suffering from bronchitis. Unfortunately that was the wrong diagnosis and it was a heart attack! Ken was taken to what Mexico calls a hospital! (not like the hospitals in the states) Ken's kidneys were failing. The Mexican Dr. held little hope for Ken unless he could get back to the states for proper treatment. The family made calls and was able to secure a medical jet to fly him out of Mexico. The flight, doctor and hospital had to be paid for before he could leave! All credit cards were maxed and money wired to get Ken out of Mexico and to Fort Wayne Lutheran Hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, the doctors worked to get the kidneys working with little success. Ken informed the doctors that he had brought the medication that was used in Mexico with him. After examining the medication, the doctors determined the medication was the cause and was able to get the kidneys working again. Ken improved and was released. After being home a short time he suffered a stroke and was rushed to the hospital again. Miracle - yes and more than one given and gratefully received. Ken is here today because of God's gift given so that His word may continue through Ken's ministry.

Hopewell has seen miracles and prayers being answered. We are blessed by a Living, Loving Lord. In the past ten years our church has experienced ups and downs, happiness and sadness. We have gained and we have lost and those who remain are committed and dedicated to carry on the work that lies before us with love and compassion in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By: Diana Mynhier

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDER

Don Fredrickson
Enid Weaver
Diana Mynnier, Clerk

Jean Fredrickson
Evelyn Harlan
Debbie Knox

DEACON

Angie Mynhier
Danell Mynhier

Tabatha Lash

TRUSTEE

Doug Mynhier
Bill Fisher
Trent Mynhier
John Schuman

Mark Cramer
Don Fredrickson
Troy Mynhier
Jim Lash

TREASURER

Diana Mynhier

FLOWER COMMITTEE

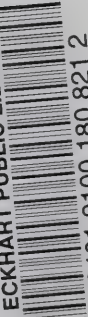
Enid Weaver

Jayne Schuman

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Angie Mynhier

Tabatha Lash

ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

8401 9100 180 821 2



7/24/2009
ETA 173104 F 13 00



HF GROUP - IN

ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY



8401 9100 180 068 0

